	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/826,176	MORIKAGE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Haythim J. Alaubaidi	2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the amendment of March 16, 2005.*

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-7 as renumbered.*

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *04 April 2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This communication is in response to the amendment of March 16, 2005.

2.   The Examiner acknowledges the cancellation of Claims 3, 5, 7-15, 17 and 19.

3.   Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 16, 18 and 20 are presented for examination following the

amendment of March 16, 2005.

4.   Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 16, 18 and 20 are allowed over the prior art of record.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment in regard to Claims 1, 2 and 20 was

given in a telephone interview with attorney William Androlia on March 31, 2005.

The Application was amended as follows:

Claim 1.   A law retrieval system constituted by connecting a user information

transmitter-receiver by which a user transmits a retrieval condition and receives a

retrieval result and a law retrieval server for performing retrieval processing in sequence

in accordance with the retrieval condition received from said user information

transmitter-receiver, via a communication network, and by connecting data storage

means, in which laws, judicial cases, and data required for retrieval are accumulated, to said law retrieval server,

wherein said data storage means includes a constitution and statute database in which data of the constitution, laws, government orders and ministerial orders, is accumulated, a judicial case database in which data of judicial cases is accumulated, and at least one database out of a meta-keyword database constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords with retrieval keywords adequate for replacing the non-retrieval keywords, a verb and object database constructed by associating verbs and objects related to each other and associating retrieval keywords related to [the] combinations of them [the verbs and objects], and an aid flow database previously constructed as aid flowcharts by predicting information gathering query patterns for cases, and

wherein said law retrieval server includes, in correspondence with said each database, at least one retrieval processing means out of meta-keyword retrieval processing means, when a received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an associated retrieval keyword from said meta-keyword database to perform retrieval processing, verb and object retrieval processing means for reading a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from said verb and object database to perform retrieval processing, and aid flow retrieval processing means, when a retrieval pattern by a received retrieval keyword matches a pattern of an aid flowchart, for transmitting requests for additional information in sequence in accordance with a flow of the aid flowchart.

Claim 2.   A law retrieval apparatus, comprising: data storage means including a

constitution and statute database in which data of the constitution, laws, government

orders and ministerial orders, is accumulated, a judicial case database in which data of

judicial cases is accumulated, and at least one database out of a meta-keyword

database constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords words with retrieval

keywords adequate for replacing the non-retrieval keywords, a verb and object

database constructed by associating verbs and objects related to each other and

associating retrieval keywords related to [the] combinations of them [the verbs and

objects], and an aid flow database previously constructed as aid flowcharts by

predicting information gathering query patterns for cases, and

a law retrieval server including, in correspondence with said each database

accumulated in said data storage means, at least one retrieval processing means out of

meta-keyword retrieval processing means, when a received keyword is a non-retrieval

keyword, for reading an associated retrieval keyword from said meta-keyword database

to perform retrieval processing, verb and object retrieval processing means for reading

a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from

said verb and object database to perform retrieval processing, and aid flow retrieval

processing means, when a retrieval pattern by a received retrieval keyword matches a

pattern of an aid flowchart, for transmitting requests for additional information in

sequence in accordance with a flow of the aid flowchart.

Claim 20.   A computer-readable record medium, comprising: a recorded constitution

and statute data in which data of the constitution, laws, government orders and

ministerial orders, is accumulated, a recorded judicial case data in which data of judicial

cases is accumulated, and at least one recorded data out of meta-keyword data

constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords with retrieval keywords adequate for

replacing the non-retrieval keywords, verb and object data constructed by associating

verbs and objects related to each other and associating retrieval keywords related to

[the] combinations of them [the verbs and objects], and aid flow data previously

constructed as aid flowcharts by predicting information gathering query patterns for

cases; and

a recorded computer program including, in correspondence with said each

database, at least one retrieval processing means out of meta-keyword retrieval

processing means, when a received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an

associated retrieval keyword from a meta-keyword database to perform retrieval

processing, verb and object retrieval processing means for reading a retrieval keyword

associated with a combination of a received verb and object from a verb and object

database to perform retrieval processing, and aid flow retrieval processing means, when

a retrieval pattern by a received retrieval keyword matches a pattern of an aid flowchart,

for transmitting requests for additional information in sequence in accordance with a

flow of the aid flowchart.

Allowable Subject Matter

6.   Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 16, 18 and 20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

7.   The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of
allowable subject matter:

Regarding Independent Claims 1-2 and 20, Applicant's particular system for
query pattern prediction is the combination of predicting an information gathering query
patterns for law cases by constructing a database that associate verbs and objects
related to each other and associating retrievable keywords related to the combination of
the verbs and objects; in combination with the limitation of matching a retrieval pattern
by a received retrieved keyword with a pattern of an aid flowchart in combination with
the other limitations of the claims, was not disclosed by, would not have been obvious
over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record or that encountered
in searching of the prior art.

Regarding Claim 4, Applicant's particular system is wherein the meta-keyword
database is set such that the non-retrieval keyword and a law term having meaning
equal or similar thereto as the retrieval word associated with the non-retrieval keyword
are on-to-one or on-to-many in combination with the limitation of matching a retrieval
pattern by a received retrieved keyword with a pattern of an aid flowchart in combination
with the other limitations of the claims, was not disclosed by, would not have been

obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record or that encountered in searching of the prior art.

Regarding Claims 6, 16 and 18, Applicant's particular system is the combination of having an information analysis potion to determine whether the received keyword is a verb or an object; and for reading the other object or verb associated therewith; in combination with the retrieval processing portion that receives the other verb or object after the output of the input/output processing portion to obtain a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of the verb and the object in combination with the limitation of matching a retrieval pattern by a received retrieved keyword with a pattern of an aid flowchart in combination with the other limitations of the claims, was not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record or that encountered in searching of the prior art.

Points of Contact

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Haythim J. Alaubaidi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4014. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (571) 272-4023.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 or telefax at

our fax number (703) 872-9306.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window of the

Randolph Building at 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Haythim J. Alaubaidi

FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Patent Examiner
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